

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, EI

SUBJECT: DEATH OF FORMER PRESIDENT DE VALERA

REF: DUBLIN 1554

1. OF POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO THE DEPARTMENT QUOTED BELOW IS A
DRAFT SUGGESTED ARRIVAL STATEMENT FOR USE BY THE CHIEF DELEGATE TO
FORMER PRESIDENT DE VALERA'S FUNERAL.

BEGIN QUOTE

ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT FORD AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES AND ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WE OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION TO THE STATE FUNERAL OF FORMER PRESIDENT
EAMON DE VALERA CONVEY OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND TO
THE IRISH PEOPLE. IT IS A SAD OCCASION WHICH BRINGS US TO IRELAND,
A COUNTRY THAT HOLDS SUCH A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE AFFECTION OF ALL
AMERICANS.

FEW MEN HAVE ACCOMPLISHED MORE IN THEIR LIFETIME THAN FORMER
PRESIDENT DE VALERA. FEW LEADERS HAVE SO HARDILY EARNED OR RICHLY
DESERVED THE ADMIRATION OF ALL THOSE WHO PRIZE HUMAN DIGNITY AND
FOR US PRESIDENT DE VALERA EXEMPLIFIED THE ENDURING NOBILITY
OF THE IRISH PEOPLE. MAY GOD REST THE SOUL OF THIS GREAT MAN
WHOSE LIFE WAS A CONSTANT SOURCE OF INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US AND
WHOSE DEATH WE NOW MOURN.

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END QUOTE

2. FOLLOWING IS A SUGGESTED DRAFT DEPARTURE STATEMENT FOR USE BY
THE CHIEF DELEGATE TO FORMER PRESIDENT DE VALERA'S FUNERAL.
BEGIN QUOTE

IT HAS BEEN OUR GREAT HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO REPRESENT THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT AT THE HISTORIC OCCASION OF THE
FUNERAL OF A GREAT IRISHMAN WHO ALSO BELONGED TO AMERICA AND TO THE
WORLD. NO ONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN SUCH AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY
OF RESPECT AND ADMIRATION COULD HAVE FAILED TO HAVE BEEN DEEPLY
MOVED, AS WE WERE, BY THIS EXPRESSION OF GRIEF BY AN ENTIRE NATION
AT THE LOSS OF ONE OF ITS MOST ILLUSTRIOUS SONS.

FORMER PRESIDENT DE VALERA RICHLY EARNED IMMORTALITY. OUR
AFFECTION FOR HIS MEMORY IS SECURE. LET HIS EXAMPLE GUIDE ALL
PEOPLES AND NATIONS.

ONCE AGAIN LET ME SAY THAT YOUR SORROW IS OURS. OUR DEEPEST
SYMPATHY WILL BE WITH THE DE VALERA FAMILY AND WITH THE PEOPLE
OF A GREAT NATION.
END QUOTE
REDAHL

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